



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,285	09/30/2002	John F. Braun	F-560	5700
919	7590	03/22/2006	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATerview DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			SCHAFFER, JONATHAN C	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2624		
DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/065,285	BRAUN ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Jonathan C. Schaffer	2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL.                  2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**DETAILED ACTION*****Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's response to the last Office Action, filed 12/19/2005, has been entered and made of record.

2. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 9 and 11. Claims 1-15 are currently pending.

3. Applicant's arguments filed 12/19/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments are considered moot in view of the new rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reintjes et al. (U.S. Publication Number 20020067854), in view of Krtolica (U.S. Patent Number 5,974,177).

***1. A method for processing form input data comprising:***

***capturing user stroke data from a form including strokes made by a user with a pointing device by tracing over at least one form identifier character that is pre-printed on the form;***

Reintjes discloses a template matching form input processing method which captures pen stroke data as an untrained user fills out a form (pg. 1, ¶. 10, l. 12-13). Reintjes does not however specifically disclose tracing over at least one form identifier character that is pre-printed on the form. Krtolica discloses a form identification and distribution system, which detects user stroke data (fig 2) in which the user traces over a form identifying super character that is preprinted on the form (fig 4). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to combine form identification

Art Unit: 2621

method disclosed by Reintjes with the form identification method disclosed by Krtolica in order to more precisely identify the unknown form thus allowing for a faster identification speed and larger number of forms that can be identified with precision.

***processing the strokes in order to determine form identification data;***

The sequence and location of the raw pen-stroke data is analyzed to determine which form was filled out (pg. 1, ¶. 10, l. 2-11).

***retrieving a form template using the form identification data;***

The resulting data is then analyzed to determine the identity of the form that was filled out by the user. (pg. 1, ¶. 10, l. 23-25).

***processing the form input data using the form template and the user stroke.***

The form input data is then processed and superimposed on stored on form template images for display (pg. 1, ¶. 10, l. 29-31).

***2. The method of claim 1 wherein the pointing instrument is a digital pen and strokes are provided by the user writing on a paper form.***

Reintjes discloses a method, which uses an electronic pen (8) in its preferred embodiment (pg. 1, ¶. 10, l. 25-26).

***3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:***

***processing a pre-determined portion of the stroke data corresponding to at least one control string character to determine the form identification data; and***

Krtolica discloses the processing of a predetermined portion of the stroke data corresponding to one or more characters to determine form identification data (col. 3, l. 9-35).

***receiving user pen stroke data from at least one data field of the form before processing the strokes in order to determine the form identification data.***

Krtolica discloses receiving user pen stroke data from at least one data field of the form before processing the strokes in order to determine the form identification data (col. 4, l. 28-53). Reintjes also discloses receiving user pen stroke data from at least one data field of the form before processing the strokes in order to determine the form identification data (pg. 2, ¶. 18).

***4. The method of claim 2 wherein:***

***processing stroke data that satisfies pre-determined criteria to determine the form identification data.***

Reintjes discloses a method, which utilizes predetermined rules associated with the stroke data to identify the form (pg. 3, ¶. 34,36,38,40).

***5. The method of claim 4 wherein:***

***the pre-determined criteria includes font criteria.***

Krtolica discloses font criteria (col. 3, l. 48-50).

***6. The method of claim 3 wherein:***

*the pre-determined portion of the stroke data is related to a pre-determined physical portion of the form.*

See rejection of claim 1 first limitation.

**7. The method of claim 2 wherein the form identification data includes a form serial number printed on the form.**

Krtolica discloses a serial number or account number (fig 4) printed on the form by the user.

**8. The method of claim 7 wherein the form serial number printed on the form includes a dashed font**

Krtolica discloses the font of the number as consisting of dashes (fig. 4).

**9. A system for processing form input data comprising:**

**a processor;**

Reintjes discloses a system, which is embodied on a computing device and by definition has a processor,

**a storage device connected to the processor;**

a storage device connected to the processor

**the storage device storing a logic program;**

and a logic program on the storage device,

***the processor operative with the logic program to perform:***

which when executed

***capturing user stroke data relating to strokes made by a user with a pointing device corresponding to at least one form identifier character that is pre-printed on the form;***

Reintjes discloses a template matching form input processing method which captures pen stroke data as an untrained user fills out a form (pg. 1, ¶. 10, l. 12-13). Reintjes does not however specifically disclose tracing over at least one form identifier character that is pre-printed on the form. Krtolica discloses a form identification and distribution system, which detects user stroke data (fig 2) in which the user traces over a form identifying super character that is preprinted on the form (fig 4). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to combine form identification method disclosed by Reintjes with the form identification method disclosed by Krtolica in order to more precisely identify the unknown form thus allowing for a faster identification speed and larger number of forms that can be identified with precision.

***processing the strokes in order to determine form identification data;***

The sequence and location of the raw pen-stroke data is analyzed to determine which form was filled out (pg. 1, ¶. 10, ln. 2-11).

***retrieving a form template using the form identification data;***

The resulting data is then analyzed to determine the identity of the form that was filled out by the user. (pg. 1, ¶. 10, ln. 23-25).

***and processing the form input data using the form template and the user stroke.***

The form input data is then processed and superimposed on stored on form template images for display (pg. 1, ¶. 10, ln. 29-31).

***10. The system of claim 9 wherein the pointing instrument is a digital pen and strokes are provided by the user writing on a paper form.***

Reintjes discloses a system, which uses an electronic pen (8) in its preferred embodiment (pg. 1, ¶. 10, ln. 25-26).

***11. The system of claim 10 further comprising the processor operative with the logic program to perform:***

***processing a pre-determined portion of the stroke data corresponding to at least one control string character to determine the form identification data; and***

Krtolica discloses the processing of a predetermined portion of the stroke data corresponding to one or more characters to determine form identification data (col. 3, l. 9-35).

***Receiving user pen stroke data from at least one data field of the form before processing the strokes in order to determine the form identification data.***

Krtolica discloses receiving user pen stroke data from at least one data field of the form before processing the strokes in order to determine the form identification data (col. 4, l. 28-53). Reintjes also discloses receiving user pen stroke data from at least one data field of the form before processing the strokes in order to determine the form identification data (pg. 2, ¶. 18).

**12. The system of claim 10 further comprising the processor operative with the logic program to perform:**

**processing stroke data that satisfies pre-determined criteria to determine the form identification data.**

Reintjes discloses a system, which utilizes predetermined rules associated with the stroke data to identify the form (pg. 3, ¶. 34,36,38,40).

**13. The system of claim 12 wherein:**

**the pre-determined criteria includes font criteria.**

Krtolica discloses font criteria (col. 3, l. 48-50).

**14. The method of claim 11 wherein:**

**the pre-determined portion of the stroke data is related to a pre-determined physical portion of the form;**

See rejection of claim 1 first limitation.

**and the form identification data includes a form serial number printed on the form.**

See rejection of Claim 7.

**15. The system of claim 14 wherein-the form serial number printed on the form includes a dashed font.**

See rejection of Claim 8.

### **Conclusion**

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Whitaker (U.S. Patent Number 5,140,645) Whitaker provides the definition of master character for Krtolica's character. Also "dictionary.com"'s definition of a character is also considered pertinent.
7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

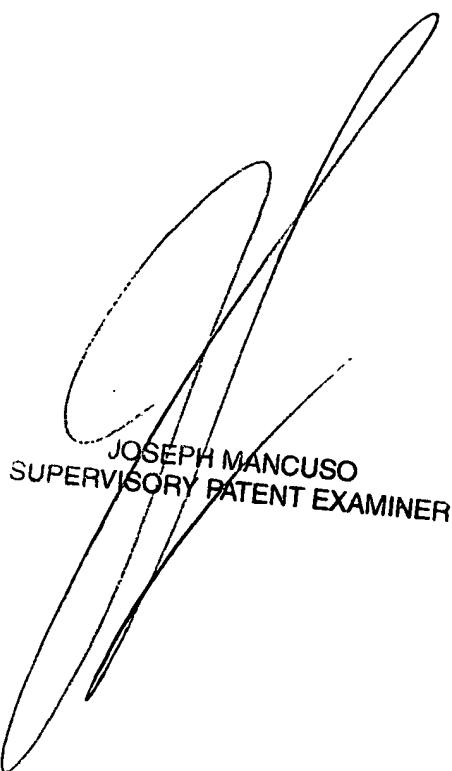
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan C. Schaffer whose telephone number is (571)272-0603. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso can be reached on (571)272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JS



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JOSEPH MANCUSO". Below the signature, the text "SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER" is printed in capital letters.

JOSEPH MANCUSO  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER